

and power of assimilation. It contains brief accounts of food, air, soil, water, sewage, garbage, the causes and dissemination of disease, personal hygiene, household hygiene, school hygiene, the hygiene of occupation, the employment of women and children, disinfection, and quarantine. The statements have been in large part drawn from the works of standard authorities, but all have been well arranged and tintured with the sane advice and practical experience of the authoress.

Miss McIsaac, well and favorably known as the author of *Primary Nursing Technique*, *Hygiene for Nurses*, and *Hygiene for the Use of Public Schools*, has prepared what should prove to be an exceedingly useful book on bacteriology for nurses. It discusses in plain and simple language the essentials of the structure, mode of development, and composition of bacteria, the effect of physical and chemical agents on bacteria, the effects of bacterial growth, the relation of bacteria to disease, immunity, inflammation, suppuration, the infectious diseases, and bacteria in the air, soil, water, and food. In addition, there is a schedule for twelve laboratory exercises of two-hour periods, which, however worthy the object sought to be subserved, seems somewhat in advance of the real needs of nurses. The book, nevertheless, is to be commended.

It suffices, perhaps, to mention the publication of a new edition of Miss Kimber's *Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses*, since the book itself is one of the best known and justly prized on the subjects of which it treats. Miss Gray, in preparing the new edition, has added the Basle nomenclature as far as practicable, a preliminary chapter on physical, chemical, and biological definitions, explanatory notes, summaries at the end of each chapter, and a number of new illustrations. We may say that a really good book has been made better.

A. K.

PRACTICAL GYNECOLOGY. A MANUAL FOR NURSES AND STUDENTS. By NETTA STEWART, Sister in the Gynecological Wards of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and JAMES YOUNG, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., Clinical Tutor in Surgery and late Resident Gynecologist, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Pp. 327. New York: William Wood & Co., 1909.

THERE is an unfortunate and no doubt unintentioned deception in the title. It is not a practical gynecology in any sense of the term. It had better have been given a title more definitely descriptive of the actual contents and scope of the book. A short chapter upon the anatomy of the pelvis is followed by a description of the more commonly used instruments. Asepsis, the method of the examination of the patient, a description of the vaginal douche,

of the method of catheterization of the bladder and of its examination, and the usual methods of local treatment follow. The remainder of the book contains a short study of gonorrhœa, of certain of the more common operative procedures, together with the preparation and after treatment of celiotomy cases, and finally a short glossary. We believe the book to be a good one to place in the hands of nurses, and there are many points without doubt of value to the student: but we reiterate, that the title *Practical Gynecology* is entirely too pretentious, and we do not understand under what form of medical instruction it could be needed by the student of medicine, as all it contains, except the points upon nursing, forms but a small part of the ordinary text-book.

W. R. N.

HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY. AN ELEMENTARY TEXT-BOOK OF ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND HYGIENE. BY JOHN W. RITCHIE, Professor of Biology in the College of William and Mary, Virginia. Illustrated by Mary H. Wellman. Pp. 362; 157 illustrations. Yonkers-on-Hudson, New York: World Book Company, 1909.

To all acquainted with the average "school physiology" and its inaccuracies, Prof. Ritchie's work must come as a welcome and long-needed advance. Not only has he given a concise account of the more important aspects of human anatomy and physiology, but he has succeeded in emphasizing many of the fundamental principles of biology, unfortunately too rarely brought to the attention of our school children. In addition, he has devoted a considerable portion of his text to a discussion of the elements of hygiene, and the acute infectious diseases.

In spite of the brevity which of necessity marks the anatomical and physiological descriptions, surprisingly few important phases of the subject are omitted. Occasional omissions, however, do occur. For example, in the description of the gastric juice, no mention is made of rennin; nor is the glycogenic function of the liver explained, the reader being left with the impression that glucose as such is stored in the liver. After disposing of the anatomy and physiology of a group of organs, the author discusses the hygienic measures necessary to maintain these organs in a state of efficacy and health. In this connection attention should be called to the chapter on ventilation following the consideration of the respiratory tract and an equally important one on dietetics that concludes the discussion of digestion.

The attention paid the comparative anatomy and biology is decidedly the most admirable feature of the book. The facts are stated in a way well calculated to awaken in the student an interest in all natural phenomena. Comparisons are drawn between the